

August 31, 1848
Elihu Burritt to "Dear Fry" [Edmund Fry]

Lawsons Bedford Hotel, Paris
Aug 31 [1848?]

Dear Fry,

I have been busy getting out the "Friendly Addresses". I shall append to them my article on the Congress of Nations. I send you an "Omnibus" which I wish you would forward to America with such pieces as Lynne may send you, and which you may write. The idea occupies my mind whether, providing we hold our Convention in Brussels, it would not be desirable to get up a meeting in Paris immediately afterwards, if the coast shall be clear. It has occurred to me that at least half of the deputations to Brussels might like to see Paris, when so near it, and would be glad to attend a meeting here if it could be got up under favourable circumstances. How does this strike you? All who should deliver or read dissertations at Brussels might come to Paris; thus we should have all the practical strength, if not all the show of numerical force which we might have in Brussels. I hope the authorisation will come for a meeting here; if so, I will leave matters here in such a [train?] that a meeting might be produced on short notice. I feel very reluctant to leave this field without raising our white banner of brotherhood. Our French "Ezekiel" here will render us much service. I shall leave him to mail the Friendly Addresses to persons in different parts of the Country; to all the members of the Assembly. He is quite a literary young man, having recently received a prize for a poem. I will arrange for a building here, in case we should conclude to come here from Brussels. Perhaps the obstacle which we have encountered may be entirely removed by the time our demonstration in Brussels is over and that the state of siege, suspension of papers, clubs, &c, may be raised. I fear that the substitution of Brussels for Paris may diminish our delegation from England. We cannot expect many from France, if any at all, at this juncture; but we may make a stir about the Convention. I feel determined if my life be spared to press the Congress of Nations into universal publicity, even if our demonstrations should miscarry. I hope you will habituate your mind to the thought that our Convention will be but the inauguration of the proposition, and that we must push it forward through the instrumentality of the League U.B. Perhaps I shall write you tomorrow before I leave for Brussels.

Affectionately yours

Elihu Burritt.